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Certain Propositions

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Relating to the Scots Plantation of CALEDONIA,
and the National Address for supporting thereof, breisly offered
to Publick View, for removing of Mistakes and Prejudices.

I. **T**HAT the *Scotch* Planters have entered upon *Caledonia* by Warrant, and under Security of an Act of Parliament, and Letters patent from his Majesty under the Great Seal, and most strictly within the Terms and Conditions thereof; otherwise there had needed no more to Ruine them, than a Declaration of their having Forfeited their Act and Charter.

II. That their Right is confirmed by Invitation from, and League with the original free Natives of that Country, who only can have the primary Natural Right to the Soil, and from whom the *Spaniards* have, contrary to all Justice, Faith, and Contract, usurp'd what they now possess in *America*, having obtain'd their Possession by Fraud and Force and Barbarous Cruelty, and by the Popes Donation upon certain Conditions, which they have not in the least observed, as is fully made appear by *Bartholomew de las Casas* Bishop of *Chiapa*, one of there own Missionaries.

III. That the place chosen by the *Scots* was never inhabited by the *Spaniards* or any other *European*, and consequently the *Scots* have the same freedom to take Possession of it, as the *English* to possess any part of the Coast from *New-England* to *Florida*, the *French* in *Canada* and *Messissippy*, the *Portuguez* in *Brasil*, and the *Dutch* in *Suranam*, being all upon the same Continent, which the *Spaniards* from *Columbus's* discovery, do challenge to themselves. And indeed it is evident, That the Crown and Kingdom of *Scotland* hath not a better Title, nor a more just Right to any *Scots* Territory from the *Mule of Galloway* to the *Week of Cathnes* then to *Caledonia* in *America*.

IV. That not only have the *Scots* the sole unquestionable Right to this Important Place: But likewise, albeit they have been hitherto debarr'd from all Benefit of free Trading in other Plantations, yet they have very frankly offered both to the *English* and *Dutch*, their Protestant Neighbours, a reasonable Share in all the Advantages of *Caledonia*, which for Natural Wealth and Strength, and conveniency of Trading, is without Dispute, the most considerable in the whole World.

V. That if the *Scots* be forced to abandon their Plantation, the *French* will undoubtedly seize upon it, not only for the sake of Trade, Gain, and Empire; But likewise in Zeal for rooting out the Northern Herefy, both from *America* and *Europe*; which may be easily foreseen, both by the vast occasion of Power and Wealth, that so important a Post will bring to the *French* Greatness, and by the keen Resentment that all the Popish Courts, and particularly the Court of *Rome* have testified against the *Scots* possessing thereof, and by the no less unpolitick than cruel Persecution that, at this day rages in *France* against the poor Remnant of Protestants, who cannot comply with their Superstition and Idolatry.

VI. That there is such an hopeful appearance of propagating the pure Gospel amongst an Harmless, good-Natur'd People in the Neighbourhood of *Caledonia*, who seem well disposed to receive it, as ought to excite Reformed Protestants to contribute thereto with the greatest Vigor; and to strengthen themselves against the Romish Power; especially when Popery prevails so mightily over all *Europe*, and the Papists compass Sea and Land to gain Profelites; Nor doth the Remoteness, Danger and Barbarities of *China*, *Japan*, *Tartary*, and all the back parts of the *English* Plantations discourage or faint their Zeal.

VII. That therefore, it is the undoubted Interest and Duty of all Protestants, to support this Colony in the *Scots* hands, who have the only just Right thereto; and in whose Possession, it must certainly prove more beneficial to all other Protestant Kingdom and States, than any other more wealthy and powerful Kingdom or State, would suffer it to be unto the rest, if they did possess it alone. And it must be the unquestionable duty of all true hearted *Scots* Men to endeavour by all Just, Legal, and orderly ways, the Preservation of their own Colony.

VIII. That whatever has been the Cause of the late Disaster of *Caledonia*, yet most Evident it is, that the Colony cannot now be preserved to *Scotland*, unless

unless the Force and Effect of the *West-India* Proclamations be taken off, and that too, very speedily, since it is undeniably manifest, that the Company under their present hard Circumstances, and now sadly redoubled Misfortunes, are not able to support the same, and without the very speedy Assistance of a Parliament, not only must so Great and Honourable an Enterprize fail to the Ground, but the remaining Persons, and the Treasure employed therein must Perish, to the Irreparable Loss and Dishonour of the Nation.

IX. That the only proper and effectual Way for Remedy, is (in imitation of the *Dutch-East-India-Company*, who having been unsuccessful in their two first Voyages, were supported by the *States-General*) in all Humble and Dutiful Manner, to Address the King for the Meeting of the Parliament; which having been already done by the Company, and his Majesty having been pleased to regret their and the Kingdoms loss, and to promise that the Parliament shall meet, when the Good of the Nation does require it; There can be nothing more Natural, than for the Nation themselves to acquaint His Majesty of the urgent Necessity of the Parliament's speedy Meeting, upon so Weighty and Pressing a Juncture, and of so Universal a Concern to the whole Nation.

X. That the Natural Right of Petitioning, in a Legal and Orderly Way, being revived and asserted by the *Claim of Right*, the Happy Purchase of the late Glorious Revolution: And His Majesty, our Great Deliverer, under God, having always testified a just Regard to the forelaid Right of Petitioning, even in that Proclamation that forbids Illegal Methods; However His Majesty may, in some things, have been misinformed, to the Prejudice of this His Ancient Kingdom; Yet it is never to be imagined, but that when he understands their true Good from themselves, he will Graciously grant their Just and Necessary Desires, and with a Fatherly Affection Countenance, and take Care of their Righteous Cause.

XI. That tho it be Disloyal for any Man, to doubt of the Kings granting a Parliament, when sought by so considerable a part of the Nation: And to doubt of the Parliaments supporting *Caledonia*, is unworthy of a *Scots* Man; Yet if the Question be ask't, What is to be done in case of Refusal. The Answer is plain, That first, the Nation shall have the Satisfaction of having done their Duty; and next, they shall have the Melancholly Advantage of knowing, that further Attempts for an *American* Plantation must at present cease, so as they need not fruitlessly throw away more Men and Money to be lost in Doubtful Expectations, but must gather up their Shipwreck, and call Home what remains.

XII. That in a Case of so Universal and Pressing Concern, as Persons of different Interests have been invited to enter into the Trading Society, so it ought to frighten none from their Duty in Promoting this Address, because Persons of the same differing Interests joyn in it; since the Address it self is National, Loyal and Protestant, and one of the best Securities to the present Government; and so also is the Design, in which all doth Center.

XIII. That albeit some ill Minded Persons bestir themselves in blowing about Insinuations, Surmises and Jealousies, to raise Dust and blind Peoples Eyes, yet these are so weak and groundless, and are convincingly found to be so very idle Stuff, that they deserve the utmost Contempt, since Persons of all Ranks engaged in the Address, do on all Occasions openly disown all Intentions of Disquieting or Prejudging the Government in Church or State, as now by Law established, and declare their only Design to be His Majesty's true Honour, and the Good of the Country, which are inseparable, and the Christian Glory of the Church, in the Propagation of the Gospel by the Protestant Presbyterian Ministers of the Church of *Scotland*. Besides, that, there is an absolute Impossibility, if Matters be duly pondered, that it should be otherwise; or that an Address for the Meeting of that Parliament, which effectuated the late Happy Revolution, and for the Support of *Caledonia*, can have any other Tendency.

XIV. That the General Assembly, by their Acts, and the Commission, by their Letter to the Colony, their Mission in Summer last, and their late Recommendation to Presbyteries, have testified so peculiar a Regard to the *Caledonian Undertaking*, and so just a Sense of the great Interests of Religion therein, That no Minister of the Gospel, who will not blindly truckle to a Party, or is not misled by the Power of Prejudice, can hesitate upon the Necessity, much less upon the Expediency of so Dutiful and Loyal an Address, when the Countries Good, and the Service of the Nation, doth so urgently require it.

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